Multicultural Books for Children

Picture Books



"Romina's Rangoli" by Malathi Michelle Iyengar

When her teacher asks each student to bring in something reflecting his or her heritage to display at an open house Romina struggles over how to represent both her father's Indian culture and her mother's Mexican one.

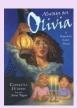
Call Number: E IYE



"Made in China" by Vanita Oelschlager

Made in China tells the story of a girl adopted into an American family and the problems she encounters with her older sister. With help from her father, the adopted sister learns the value of her Chinese beginnings. Later the girls accept their differences and embrace the joy that comes from a loving family.

Call Number: E OEL



"Always an Olivia" by Carolivia Herron

Herron, a Jewish-American of African descent, tells the unique story of her family's history.

Call Number: E HER



"Chicken Sunday" by Patricia Polacco

To thank Miss Eula for her wonderful Sunday chicken dinners, three children sell decorated eggs to buy her a beautiful Easter hat.

Call Number: E POL



"Amazing Grace" by Mary Hoffman

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.

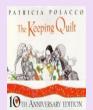
Call Number: E HOF



"Jingle Dancer" by Cynthia L. Smith

Jenna, a member of the Muscogee, or Creek, Nation, borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the powwow. Includes a note about the jingle dance tradition and its regalia.

Call Number: E SMI



"The Keeping Quilt" by Patricia Polacco

A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith.

Call Number: E POL



"Peakaboo Morning" by Rachael Isadora

A toddler plays peek-a-boo throughout the day.

Call Number: E ISA



"Black is Brown is Tan" by Arnold Adoff

Describes in verse a family with a brown-skinned mother, white-skinned father, two children, and their various relatives.

Call Number: E ADO



"What Will You Be, Sara Mee?" by Kate Aver Avraham

At her ToI, the first birthday party, Sara Mee plays the traditional Korean prophecy game--ToIjabee--while her extended family and friends watch.

Call Number: E AVR



"Four Feet, Two Sandals" by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers. Includes author's note about refugees.

Call Number: E WIL



"My Name is Sangoel" by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

As a refugee from Sudan to the United States, Sangoel is frustrated that no one can pronounce his name correctly until he finds a clever way to solve the problem.

Call Number: E WIL



"Round is a Mooncake" by Roseanne Thong

As a little girl discovers things round, square, and rectangular in her urban neighborhood, she is reminded of her Chinese American culture.

Call Number: E THO



"Mama, Do You Love Me?" by Barbara M. Joosse

A child living in the Arctic learns that a mother's love is unconditional.

Call Number: E JOO



"Kumak's Fish" by Michael Bania

On a beautiful Arctic morning when Kumak and his family go ice fishing, Kumak hooks what seems like an enormous fish, and the entire village gets involved.

Call Number: E BAN



"Abuela's Weave" by Omar S. Castañeda

A young Guatemalan girl and her grandmother grow closer as they weave some special creations and then make a trip to the market in hopes of selling them.

Call Number: E CAS



"Namaste!" by Diana Cohn

Whenever Nima meets someone on her long walk to the market village in Nepal, she brings her hands together with her fingers almost touching her chin, bows her head slightly, and says "Namaste," which means "the light in me meets the light in you." Includes information on the geography, culture, and people of Nepal.

Call Number: E COH



"Lila and the Secret of Rain" by David Conway & Jude Daly

In Lila's village in Kenya, they badly need rain, and her grandfather tells her the secret of rain so she can talk to the sky herself.

Call Number: E CON



"For You are a Kenyan Child" by Kelly Cunnane

From rooster crow to bedtime, a Kenyan boy plays and visits neighbors all through his village, even though he is supposed to be watching his grandfather's cows.

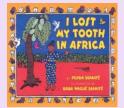
Call Number: E CUN



"Chavela and the Magic Bubble" by Monica Brown

When Chavela blows a bubble with a strange new gum, she floats away to Mexico, where her great-grandfather once worked harvesting the tree sap that makes gum chewy.

Call Number: E BRO



"I Lost My Tooth in Africa" by Penda Diakité

While visiting her father's family in Mali, a young girl loses a tooth, places it under a calabash, and receives a hen and a rooster from the African Tooth Fairy.

Call Number: E DIA

Juvenile Fiction



"Peiling and the Chicken-fried Christmas" by Pauline Chen

Fifth-grader Peiling Wang wants to celebrate "a real American Christmas," much to the displeasure of her traditional, Taiwanese-born father.

Call Number: JF CHE



"The Year of the Dog" by Grace Lin

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

Call Number: JF LIN



"Eating Enchiladas" by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

A sleepover inspires Sarah, who likes to do things differently, to choose Mexico for her "Countries of the World" presentation.

Call Number: J SER SIM



"Dave at Night" by Gail Carson Levine

When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

Call Number: JF LEV

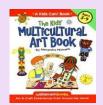


"The Day of the Pelican" by Katherine Paterson

In 1998 when the Kosovo hostilities escalate, thirteen-year-old Meli's life as an ethnic Albanian, changes forever after her brother escapes his Serbian captors and the entire family flees from one refugee camp to another until they are able to immigrate to America.

Call Number: JF PAT

Non-Fiction



"The Kids' Multicultural Art Book: Art & Craft Experiences From Around the World" by Alexandra Michaels

Call Number: J 745.5 MIC



"My Librarian is a Camel" by Margaret Ruurs

How books are brought to children around the world.

Call Number: J 027.4 RUU



"Listen to the Wind" by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth

An adaptation of the bestselling book about the American Greg Mortenson's building of over 60 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is the story of Greg Mortenson's first building project in Pakistan.

Call Number: J 371.009 MOR



"Three Cups of Tea" by Sarah L. Thompson

An adaptation of the bestselling book about the American Greg Mortenson's building of over 60 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Call Number: J 371.882 MOR



"I Belong to the Muslim Faith" by Katie Dicker and Zoha Azizi

Introduction to the Muslim religion from the perspective of a child belonging to that faith.

Call Number: J 297 DIC





"Grandma and Me at the Flea / Los Meros Meros Remateros" by Juan Felipe Herrera

Juanito accompanies his grandmother to a flea market in southern California, where he helps her and the other vendors and where they enjoy seeing old friends from their Mexican-American community.

Call Number: SPA E HER



"My Tata's Guitar/ La Guitarra de Mi Tata" by Ethriam Cash Brammer

While sharing stories of their Mexican-American family's past, a father gives his young son the guitar he received from his own father.

Call Number: JSPA E BRA